



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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January 4, 2008
PR-002

New Brochure Sheds Light on Night's Importance

Where can you find 14 people, nine birds, two insects, 19 animals, 10 water creatures, two centaurs, one head of hair, a serpent, a dragon, a flying horse and a river all in one place? Look no further than the stellar constellations of the night sky, which is one of the subjects covered in the latest Fairfax County Stewardship brochure, *Night*.

The new brochure, easily recognized by a full moon set against a midnight blue background, is available at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters, nature centers and historic sites, and also at the Herrity Building on the ninth floor. The goal of the ongoing series of Fairfax County Stewardship brochures is to raise awareness about the environment and the natural world and to inspire citizens to become stewards of these valuable resources.

Night identifies nocturnal creatures which may be seen after the sun sets in our area. Everything from lighting bugs to bats to owls is discussed. Like many previous stewardship brochures, *Night* unfolds into a small poster full of colorful images depicting animals, insects, birds and natural phenomena. The brochure is a great tool for educating children and can be used by backyard naturalists to identify commonly seen critters.

Unfortunately, light pollution from ever expanding urban areas is threatening night sky views that have been visible since the beginning of time. Dark night skies not only provide wonder and enjoyment for casual astronomers, but animals use the dark to hide and hunt for prey. The brochure discusses the enormous waste of energy that results from poorly designed outdoor lighting and provides tips for reducing light pollution around homes. To preserve dark skies, Fairfax County has developed its Outdoor Lighting Standards, ordinances which will help control glare, light trespass, and sky glow. These standards are recognized as some of the most comprehensive in the nation.

Night and the other Fairfax County Stewardship brochures are produced in partnership by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. For more information or to download the brochures please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship.

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